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LIGHT ABSORPTION AS A DETERMINING FACTOR IN THE SELECTION OF THE SIZE OF THE OBJECTIVE FOR THE GREAT REFRACTOR OF THE POTSDAM OBSERVATORY.

In the Transactions of the Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences, Professor Vogel gives, under the above title, an interesting and important article on the methods and results of experiments made to determine the loss of light in refracting telescopes through absorption by the glass of the objective. The research was undertaken, as the title suggests, to determine the size of the lenses for the new Potsdam refractor, with the result that 80 cm. was adopted as the size of the objective. This lens is corrected for the actinic rays, and will be mounted with a guiding telescope of 50 cm. aperture, corrected for visual rays.

No abstract of this article is here attempted, as a translation of the entire paper may be found in the Astrophysical Journal for February, 1897.

It is of interest, however, to note that, according to Professor VOGEL'S tables, giving the intensity of the transmitted in terms of the incident light, as the thickness of the objective varies, the visual objective of the thirty-six-inch telescope of the Lick Observatory (thickness about 7½ cm.) transmits about eighty-eight per cent. of the visual rays that fall upon it, if allowance is made for absorption only, and seventy-four per cent., allowing for absorption and reflection. When the photographic correcting lens is added, the thickness of the objective is approximately 12 cm., and the intensity of the transmitted actinic rays, in terms of the incident, is sixty per cent. when absorption alone is considered, and forty-nine per cent. when absorption and reflection are both taken into account. R. G. AITKEN.

March 15, 1897.

AWARDS OF THE COMET-MEDAL OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC.

The Donohoe Comet-Medal has been awarded as follows, since its foundation:

- 1. W. R. BROOKS, March 19, 1890.
- 2. W. F. DENNING, July 23, 1890.
- 3. J. Coggia, July 18, 1890.
- 4. R. SPITALER, November 16, 1890.
- 5. T. Zona, November 15, 1890.
- 6. E. E. BARNARD, March 29, 1891. 7. E. E. BARNARD, October 3,
- 8. L. Swift, March 6, 1892.
- 9. W. F. DENNING, March 18, 1892.
- 10. W. R. BROOKS, August 28, 1892.
- 11. E. E. BARNARD, October 12, 1892.
- 12. E. Holmes, November 6, 1892.
- 13. W. R. Brooks, November 19, 1892.
- 14. W. R. Brooks, October 16,
- 15.' W. F. DENNING, March 26, 1894.

- 16. W. F. GALE, April 2, 1894.
- 17. J. M. Schaeberle, April 16, 1893.
- 18. E. D. SWIFT, November 20, 1894.
- 19. L. SWIFT, August 20, 1895.
- 20. C. D. PERRINE, November 17, 1895.
- 21. W. R. Brooks, November 21,
- 22. C. D. PERRINE, February 15, 1896.
- 23. L. SWIFT, April 13, 1896.
- 24. W. E. SPERRA, August 31, 1896.
- 25. E. GIACOBINI, September 4, 1896.
- 26. C. D. PERRINE, November 2, 1896.
- 27. C. D. PERRINE, December 8,